

NATIONAL NETWORK OF COMMERCIAL MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION CENTERS

(TC-98-12-06-8-AR)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executing agency:	Argentine Chamber of Commerce (Cámara Argentina de Comercio – CAC)
Beneficiaries:	The program's participants and direct beneficiaries will be arbitration and/or mediation centers comprising the proposed National Network and clients for their services, namely: (i) private investors and the business community; (ii) chambers of commerce; (iii) business and professional unions and associations; and (iv) eligible centers that join the Network.
Objectives:	<p>The program's general objective is to help make Argentina's business sector more competitive and economically efficient and to enhance the climate for private investment in the country. To that end, support will be provided to consolidate and harmonize alternative commercial dispute resolution approaches nationwide and ensure that the services these centers offer are efficient and of high caliber. Specific objectives are to (i) establish a National Network of Commercial Mediation and Arbitration Centers and (ii) strengthen the institutional capacity of Network centers.</p> <p>The expected outcome of the program is an institutionalized alternative dispute resolution system that will give private businesses ready access to an efficient, reliable, neutral avenue for settling commercial disputes. As well as improving the climate for business dealings within Argentina, the program will be a move toward the creation of regional dispute resolution mechanisms, particularly within MERCOSUR.</p>
Description:	The program would have four components: (i) establishment of a National Network of Commercial Mediation and Arbitration Centers; (ii) institutional strengthening of Network centers; (iii) training of neutral third parties (arbitrators and mediators) to work in the Network; and (iv) strategic publicity on the merits of institutionalized mediation and arbitration, and market penetration initiatives.

A Program Executing Unit (PEU) will be set up to assist the Argentine Chamber of Commerce in the program's technical components and its administration. The PEU will be in charge of liaison with the Bank, including the channeling of requests seeking the Bank's non-objection to proposed goods or services contracts envisaged in the program.

Because the program would help create a network of centers nationwide, two bodies would be established: a Monitoring and Coordination Committee (CCC) to help monitor and oversee the Network, and a Panel of Eminent Persons whose mandate would be to make certain that decisions rendered in Network centers meet high ethical standards.

Financing:	Modality:	Grant
	MIF	US\$1,000,000 (40%)
	Local counterpart:	<u>US\$1,508,000</u> (60%)
	Total:	US\$2,508,000

Terms:	Execution period:	36 months
	Disbursement period:	42 months

Exceptions to Bank policy: None.

Special contractual conditions: As conditions precedent to the first disbursement of the contribution, the CAC would have to demonstrate to the Bank's satisfaction that: (i) it has selected the PEU staff; (ii) it has submitted a work plan for year 1 of the program; (iii) it has put into effect the Operating Regulations for the Network, according to the draft agreed on with the Bank; (iv) the Monitoring and Coordination Committee (CCC) has been set up, area headquarters centers have been declared eligible, and contracts have been signed with centers joining the Network; and (v) the Panel of Eminent Persons for the Network has been set up.